SHIMZ3.001APC

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Asai, et al.

Int'l Appl. No.

PCT/JP03/16716

Int'l filing date

December 25, 2003

For

NUCLEIC ACID METHYLATION DETECTION PROCESS USING

AN INTERNAL REFERENCE

SAMPLE

Examiner

unknown

Group Art Unit

unknown

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND VERIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.821 (f)

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned U.S. application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.